

President Trump Continues to Reject Bipartisan Compromises to Protect DREAMers

After the President terminated the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, he issued a six-month delay and asked Congress to find a permanent legislative solution to allow DREAMers to remain here. He said he would sign what Congress sent him:

“I have a love for these people, and hopefully now Congress will be able to help them and do it properly. And I can tell you, in speaking to members of Congress, they want to be able to do something and do it right. And really, we have no choice. We have to be able to do something, and I think it's going to work out very well.” [White House transcript, 9/5/17]

“You guys are going to have to come up with a solution [for DACA], and I'm going to sign that solution.... If we do this properly, DACA, you're not so far away from comprehensive immigration reform. And if you want to take it that further step, I'll take the heat. I don't care.” [CNBC, [1/9/18](#)]

Democrats have put forward numerous bipartisan proposals to protect DREAMers, but each time, the President has rejected them out of hand:

<u>BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION</u>	<u>PRESIDENT TRUMP'S RESPONSE</u>
A clean, bipartisan DREAM Act, which protects DREAMers and provides a pathway to citizenship was introduced by Rep. Roybal-Allard (D-CA) and Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL).	“A compromise deal that once appeared within reach — passage of the Dream Act coupled with some enhanced border security measures — now appears to have slipped as the administration backtracks on Trump's earlier agreement with Democratic leaders and piles on fresh demands.” [LA Times, 1/9/18]
The USA Act, which provides DREAMers with a pathway to citizenship and includes border security provisions, was proposed by Rep. Pete Aguilar (D-CA) and Rep. Will Hurd (R-TX).	“President Donald Trump tweeted Monday morning that any deal that lacks funding for a border wall ‘is a total waste of time.’ That was widely seen as a direct rejection of the plan backed by Hurd and McCain.” [Dallas News, 2/5/18]
The Senate companion to the House USA Act was introduced by Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) and Senator John McCain (R-AZ).	“President Donald Trump rejected a bipartisan immigration plan on Monday — even before it was formally presented by Sens. John McCain and Chris Coons — as lawmakers struggled to resolve an impasse over how to change the system.” [CNBC, 2/5/18]
Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) worked for weeks on a bipartisan proposal and presented it to the President at the White House.	“The White House on Tuesday hardened its position against a bipartisan proposal in the Senate that would shield young immigrants living in the U.S. from deportation... ‘It’s totally unacceptable to the president and should be declared dead on arrival.’” [The Hill, 1/23/18]

President Trump continues to stand in the way of bipartisan compromise. If he is serious about signing “a bill of love,” as he has called it, then he ought to put aside his hardline, partisan proposal and work with both parties on a bipartisan solution that can pass both chambers.

Office of Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer, 3/6/2018